APERTURA DE LA SESION

Se abre la sesion a las 10:35 a. m., ocupando el estrado el Sr. Presidente, Hon. Claro M. Recto.

DISPENSACION DE LA LECTURA DE LA LISTA DE DELEGADOS Y DEL ACTA

SR. GRAFILO. Sr. Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE. Sr. Delegado.

SR. GRAFILO. Pido que se dispense la lectura de la lista de Delegados y del Acta, y que 'esta se dé por aprobada.

EL PRESIDENTE. Hay alguna objeción a la mocion? (Silencio). La Mesa no oye ninguna. Queda aprobada.

DESPECHO DE LOS ASUNTOS QUE ESTAN SOBRE LA MESA DEL SR. PRESIDENTE.

EL PRESIDENTE. Leasnse los documentos recibidos.

EL SECRETARIO:

CONTINUACION DE LA CONSIDERACION DEL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION, CONCEDIENDO EL SUFRAGIO A LOS VARONES SOLAMENTE. (continuacion)

EL PRESIDENTE. Esta en orden la continuacion de la discusion del Proyecto de Resolucion conecdiendo el sufragion a los varones solamente.

MR. ABELLA. Mr. President, before presenting the first speaker this morning, I would like to present this constitutional precept sponsored by the Chairman of the Committee on Suffrage, Delegate Jose Altavas from Capiz, which I would like the Secretary to read before the Assembly. It must be remembered by this Assembly that the Delegate from Capiz spoke against the woman suffrage and further said that he changed his mind a long time ago. Sé I

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would like the secretary to read the precept for the information of the Assembly.

EL PRESIDENTE. La insercion que se pide es contraria a los procedimientos parlamentarios, y, por tanto, no puede la Mesa ordenar dicha insercion. Eso se puede hacer, haciéndolo parte del discurso que se pronuncia.

MR. ABELLA. The orator of this morning is the delegate from La Union, Mr. Osias.

EL PRESIDENTE. Tiene la palabra el Delegado por La Union.

SPEECH OF MR. OSIAS IN FAVOR OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE

MR. OSIAS. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the resolution presented. About the only thing commendatory about this resolution is that it is clear and free from ambiguity. It reads: "RESOLVED THAT THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE UNDER THE CONSTITUTION BE GRANTED TO MALE CITIZENS ONLY." In its present form, Mr. President, this resolution is inexcusably iniquitous and superlatively selfish. I am glad, however, that the s lution recognizes that suffrage is a right because it speaks of the right of suffrage. If it is a right to vote then to withhold it is a wrong. I said, Mr. President, that is is iniquitous because it withholds not only a right but what has become an acquired right granted a considerable proportion of the Philippine population. To withdraw a right which, by law, has been granted is iniquitous, inequity itself. Note as it is worded, that the right of suffrage shall be granted to male citizens only, is superlative selfishness. I have seen no resolution presented in any deliberative body equalling this. It is well that some of us, Mr. President, should rise and speak for that inarticulate group of our population constituting practically fifty per cent and who if this resolution is op-

cally fifty per cent and who, if this resolution is approved, would be men - made mandate but forever relegated to oblivion in so far as partisanship is political affairs is concerned. There can be no debate with respect to the right to vote not only as a right but as a privilege. It is furthermore a political responsibility which entails a weighty civic duty. For us to deny what we at times gallantly referred to as the better half, this elemental right to vote and be voted upon without even experimenting or giving a fair trail to the law which has been approved granting women this right which has been a boon that has been dreamed of for years and years by the women of the Philippines is, again I say, inexcusably iniquitous and superlatively selfish. No self-respecting man ought to lend himself to a scheming proposition like this.

SR. KAPUNAN. Pido que se descarte esa parte.

MR. OCIAS. This refers to no man, it is an impersonal statement, it refers to no delegate. I am speaking of impersonal matters, Mr. President. The rules permit that.

It is time that we call spade a spade ani characterize the step that we are about to take, the only proppor way that it should be characterized. Many who are opposed to the granting of suffrage to our women admit their capacity. They can not deny that they demonstrated their ability in various lines of human activity. All will, I think, unanimously pay tribute to women and I am engaging in no panygyric in so far as her heroism, her ability, her patriotism which at least equal those possessed by men.

(The President leaves the Chair assigning Sr. Kapunan to preside.)

It has been stated here that it is unnecessary to grant women the right of suffrage because they are already exercising their influence in that direction. My answer is that what they are doing indirectly we ought to be willing to give them

the right to perform directly. It has been alleged that to permit women to vote and be voted upon would be the ruin of our homes. To those men who think thusly, I have nothing but respect. I would remind them that they would seem to show little faith in the stability of our homes if they entertain the fear that because of the mere grant of this right of suffrage would mean the ruination of Filipino homes. What if there should be a duplication of the vote of the husband when wives vote? I say, what if there shoud be a duplication of the vote of the wife compared with the vote of the husband? Why not present the reverse of the picture? How about the husband that merely reflect the views of the women now? There are two sides and if they should differ, what of it? There is difference in religion now which is more vital to the homes than a mere difference of political faith. Mr. President, when this country and this government embark upon the policy of extending education not only to the boys but to the girls, the people here must have known that education of that nature necessarily have to issue in women claiming greater participation in public affairs. To deny them right of suffrage, to curtail their legitimate due to render service to the country in the ways that they covet is to show lack of faith in the education of the women of the Philippines. Mr. President, if we recognize the peculiar genius of the Filipino women for household management, may I say that municipal government is nothing more than housekeeping on a large scale. To manage a municipality, a municipality is nothing more than to manage a home, perhaps extended in its scope, and may I say that my fellow delegates from the so-called Christian provinces, that we should take a lesson from the experience of our brethren in the south land, wrongly referred to as the Moroland, because with or without laws they already have women who are presidents in fact. I cite the names of x x x x who had been president in Cotabato for six

years and I cite the name of x x x who had been president for fifteen years. We who at times tend to look upon our brethren in the so-called special provinces as inferior in political experience, may well learn from the example that they have set. What is being done now, therefore, without sanction of law ought to be done with the sanction of law not only in Cotabato, not only in the southland, but all over the Philippine Islands. You deny women by this resolution what you seek to and yet saem woman you trust in the selection of your food, in the training of your children, in entrusting your family bank to the Filipino wife. It has been shown by experience, at leas by common consent, because santioned by our own practice, that we recognize the superiority of the Filipino wife in the management of our household finances. Who knows but the entrace of filipino women in politics would curtail this Saturnelia of extravagante that has entered the Government of the Philippine Islands?

Mr. President, I am against the resolution because it is against every tenet, every element of modern democracy. We talk of democracy being a Government of the people and yet deny fifty per cent of that self-same people the right to vote. Why we might just as well re-define democ acy if we do this and say democracy is a government of less than half of the people for all the people. That would have to be our definition. Then it would be a funny definition at that and yet you would be truer to facts. There is an opposition that has cropped up against granting women the right of suffrage because of the supposed additional expense, and yet those same opponents of woman suffrage who talk in that manner proposed the holding of plebiscite which is also expensive. I do not see why in can line the mother of any man who alleged that the right of suffrage should not be granted women because of additional expense and at the same time propose the holding of plebiscite before granting the right of

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suffrage to women. Mr. President, when American granted the right of suffrage to men in the Philippine Islands, we were not required to have a plebiscite; we were not granted it outright because it was right, because it was a right, that it should be done. Mr. President, the requirement that we go into plebiscite before we grant women the right of suffrage shows that the male citizens of this country lack control of our governmental affairs, and are not even just, fair and generous to the flesh of their own flesh, to the blood of their own blood when the American had been thus been when they granted the right of suffrage to men in the Philippine Islands. I cannot place myself on that position and hence I am speaking against this resolution.

Opponents of women suffrage depict a gloomy fute; they paint a dark icture as to the possible outcome of this grant of the right of suffrage. I do not despair, and the women of rhe Philippines ought not to desparim because all social reforms have always been accomplshed to the accompaniment of the tune of the prophets of failure. Dire consequences were prophesied when higher education was granted to women of the Philippines That has been true thruout the history of education, and yet we all know now that it was a proper thing to do and that it was to the advantage not only of every nation but of hunahity at large that the women should be given equal opportunity in matters of education. Following the same line of reasoning, they ought to be given equal opportunities in the exercise of suffrage. I cannot subscribe, Mr. President, to the philosophy of fear, to the philosophy of defeatism which is animating the opponents of the woman suffrage and who are making all sorts of dire prophesies with trespect to the outcome that may result from the grant of the right of suffrage. Instead of approving this resolution and incorporating in our constitution a provision denying women the right of suffrage, worst than that withholding a right that had already by law been granted, some such provision as

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this instead should be incorporated: "Every person who is not a citizen or subject of a foreign power, 18 years of age or over, except insane and feeble-minded persons and those convicted in a court of competent jurisdiction of an infamous offense, who have been resident of the Philippine Islands for one year.....

Mr. OSIAS. (Continuing...There are three features of that constitutional provision proposed that need elucidation. Clearly, it seeks to grant the right of suffrage to both men and women. It grants that tirhg to those who have attained the age of eighteen years or over. It seeks furt ermore to emphasize the educational qualifications which is as it should be. Why, it is a sorry sight, just a painful sight to sllow men illitierates, corrupt and at times for days taken from the quarters of candidates to the polls and then only to see somebody else do the voting for them because they donot know how to read and write. And yet because of my respect for age they shall have been granted and have been acquir ed, I would not deny eve the illiterate voters the right to vote conce hey have qualified to vote, because it is wrong, iniquitious, to withoud or deny that is already conferred them by law. Just a word, Mr. President, with regard to the age. I see no reason why we should follow the age limit prescribed by countries in the temperate climates. It is known that tropical peoples mature earlier, die earlier, and, therefore, I am for granting the right of suffrage to men and women, with educational qualfications, eighteen years or over. I wish to announce my intention, Mr. President, to propose that as an amendment at the proper time and in the proper place when we shall consider the draft of the constitution that we are about formulate. Let us be fair to be the women by giving them the right to vote. There are people who criticize them when they come to this hall in great number. They

are they are campaigning. Theb when they are not numerous, they are also criticzed. That is hot even just, not even courteous to critizeze them that say. Where is our bounteous spirit of gallantry and courtesy and respecr to the women who when we need the, we appear before them with bended knees! A sup osed attack has beenmade on the capacityof the women because of some publication that had been made by a certain leader or two, is doubting the advisability of granting the right of suffrage to women. Mr. President, a sparrow does not make a summer. Besides all, of us are practical politicians; we know that there are something said in the heat of political fight that are subject to revision in our calmer moments. And so we ought to thinkt at those that ame said or published in the heat of the moement can be dispatched with a grain of salt. I am realibly informed that the veey same person quoted here who seemed that the time to doubt the wisdom of g granting the right of suffrage to women because of certain supposed irregularities com itted in a culb's election, is still in favor of the women suffrage. Today. Besides, even granting that all was quoted were true, that does not disprove thieir capacity to exerdise the right of suffrage. It rather proves that they are ready because they even can go through the process that we ourselves have set as an example for them to follow. Mr. President, I need not relate here the achievements of w women in countries where the right of suffrage has been granted them. Literature on the subject is extensive; any one who has sufficient industry may consult them and there find that the women have been instrumental in ameliorating the conditions of our laboring classes, improving conditions in the factories where women and children work, providing play-grounds for growing citizens and in other ways foster those cultural, social and spiritual improvements that are essential to the development of a sound body politic. I doubt not, Mr. President, that

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what has been achieved in other countries through the grant of the right of suffrage to women may likewise be enjoyed as benefiet received by this countryof ours if we but forget our selfishness, if we but fail to be unfair to the women and let them exercise that right which by law now is theris. If we should approve, Mr. President, provisions in the Constitution that would grant the right of suffrage without distinction of sex we have various precedents to follow. We have Mexico, which in the Article 34 of her constitution, grants the right of suffrage to women and men alike; Germany Article 17 in its Constitution; Czechoslovakia, Article 9; Poland, Article 12; Reland, Article 14; Spain, Article 36 and the United States Constitution 19th amendment. I am not going to repeat the history of the achievement and the service of women in other lands. That has been done by the previous speakers in support of the right of suffrage being grutned to women.

Before closing, Mr. President, may I vail myself of this ocasion that I rose to speak with a debt of honor as Resident Commissioner in the United States laboring as best I could, with the light that God gave me, I naturally sought in cooperation with there to enlist the support of as many elements and organizations and individuals as possible in the United States to give behind our great gigantic fight.... for national emancipatuon. While the independence bill was pending in the Congress of the United States, Mr. President, there were women organizations that wer interested in including as a provision of the independence law one which would confer the right of suffrage to the women of the Philippines. Mrs. Osias and I contact ed those organizations and the leaders and we beg ed them to desist from their intention, for two reasons: First, I feared and my colleagues likewise entertained the same view that the introduction of another controversial point in the independence law may give rise

law may give rise to fruther dilatory tactics that may be resroted to in the congress of the United States and which may delay, if not frustrate, the passage of theindependence act. Second: The second reason why we begged them to desist from that intention was that we believe that a social reform of such far-reachin significance had better come from the people themselvew, instead of having foistered upon us; and it is certainlymuch better for us to effect our own social reform than have thenn forced upon us. Ad it is because of this, Mr. President, partyly, in addition to the fear of course, that I am convinced that this is the proper step to take that I am standing today, speaking in favor of granting the right of suffrage not only to male citizens, but to female citizens alike, 18 years of age or over; but that question of age van be discussed at some other point.

Mr. Presiden,t in closing, mgy I gay that I favor women's participation in politics, because I entertain the hope that their entry would give weightier influence the hope that their entry would give wieghtier influence upon our body politics and induce the men in high places that we selet to give more thought to remedying the equeler that is now the lot of the poor and the lowly, in tead of merely being dazaled by the splend or of the rich and the mighty.

Mr. President, Iwould give a word of councel to the vomen of the Philippines from this participation, I I may: The Filipino women should continue to adopt the peaceful tactful, dipolmatic and dignified procedure ahdt they so far followed. We do not need to ape the tactics that have been followed in other countries. And may I say to them too that they whould not fall or cringe to this convention or to the Legislature. Their course

is just. They must win. They are entiled to win. I believe they will win. Great cause can never die. I ama believe in dynamism of great ideas; and while we may delay for a time the fruition of tos ideas and principles, and you can never frustrate or entirely kill their coming in their appointed time.

And now to come back to men who have before them this selfish proposituon of granting the right of suffrage to male citizens only, my brethren, the women have fought long and patient; they have faith in us; it is about time that we reciprocate and we show them in appreciation of their part in carrying on our bruden of this life, not by lip services or by dangling promises, but by actual deeds. Let us vote down this selfish proposition. Let us enthron women. Give her right, that is her due, entitling her the right of suffrage, and more than that, we shall entitle her to be voted upon. I thank you.

MR. ABELLA. Mr. President, the speaker has five minutes more to answer interpellations.

MR. INTING. Mr. President, will the gentlemanyield?

THE PRESIDENT. The gentleman may yield, if he so desires.

MR? OSIAS. Willingly.

MR. INTING. Do I understand from the gentleman from La Union that he is opposed to the plebiscite on the woman suffrage?

MR. OSIAS. I said that I would prefer to have no plebiscite. If we are generous, let us give them the right of suffrage.

MR. INTING. Is the gentleman from La Union aware of the fact that one of the greatest arguments against the granting of woman suffrage to Filipino women is that a

very insignificant portion of the Filipino women in demanding that right?

MR. OSIAS. I am opposed to plebiscite on this question of suffrage, I am only consistent with my stand in the United States. They wre askig that we first have a plebiscite on the independence question, because it is alleged that there was only a few filipinos who really want indepndnece. Besides, mere number proves nothing. Quality is what we want. (Applaus)

MR. INTING. But is it not true that if we give the right to vote to a portion of our people who do not demand it, it would not be right, but rather an imposition or obligation imposed upon them?

MR. OSIAS. It would not be an imposition, sir, because the exercise will be voluntary. The exercise of that right will be voluntary, unless, of course, we should adopta a provision for compulsory voting.

MR. INTING. Precisely that is the point that I would like to raise.

MR. OSIAS. May I ask the gentleman a question? Is the gentleman in favor of woman suffrage?

MR. INTING. I am against it.

MR. OSIAS. Then we agree to disagree.

MR. GRAFILO. Mr. President, will the gentleman yield?

THE PRESIDENT. The gentleman may yield, if he so desires.

MR. OSIAS. With pleasure.

MR. GRAFILO. Is the gentleman fromL La Union aware of the fact that in all democratic countries, laws are made, afterwards some of them are repealed or amended or substituted ?

MR. OSIAS. Yes , certainly.

MR. GRAFILO. Is it not true that when a certain piece of legislation is passed, that passage of the law carries wit it a certain right to those affected?

MR. OSIAS. I am listening!

MR. GRAFILO. And once that law which grants right to those persons affected is reapealed or amended or substituted, that right has been taken out, yet those countries still exist to be democratic?

MR. OSIAS. I hope the gentleman is satisfied and I am not satisfied.

MR. GRAFILO. So then, even we frustrate the gratn of women suffrage that is on us, it may not be undemocratic, it may not be wrong when that right of woman suffrage which has not yet been exercise should denied.

MR. OSIAS. Mr. President, in northern country whence I hail, we have there a belief that when you offer a gift and take it back, you will suffer scurvy. I do not want the legislators who granted that right to withdraw, it, because I want to free them from the ailment that may ensue should that belief be true, but I am not trying to be facetious. I think that it is but better that before withdrawing a right that had been already granted, they ought to be given a chance to try it. And furthermore, I hope the gentleman is one of those members of the convention who resented an apparent outside interfernce on the part of another body in matters concerning the constitutional convention. Following that same logic, I think we ought not to go over the head of the legislature in withdrawing a right which they themselves granted.

MR. GRAFILO. Another question. The question of suffrage being in some instances construed as a burden, would it not be proper that before giving that gift, whic

which is a burden, we should first consult in a plebiscite, the recipient of the burden ?

MR. OSIAS. Well, let us give the women both the bitter and the sweet.

MR. GRAFILO. Just for the last question. Can the gentleman fromLa Union inform us that percentage of the inhabitants of the United States are exercising the right of suffrage?

MR. OSIAS. I am afraid to quote from memory.

MR. GRAFILO. But more or less.

MR. OSIAS. I do want not to guess.

MR. GRAFILO. Suppose we want to grant our women the right of suffrage , can the gentleman from La Union more or less make an estimate of what portion of the female inhabitants would be affected?

MR. OSIAS. I could not estimate. May I ask, however, in return; how many electors actually voted in the Philippines at the election of delegates?

MR. GRAFILO. Taking a guess, they did not constitute fifteen percent. Of our inhabitants. So dobling it, should we grant the women the right to vote, it may be between twenty-five and thirty per cent.

MR. OSIAS. I would still be low. If it is very low, now, give the women the right of suffrage in order that it would not be too low.

MR. ABELLA. Mr. President, the time of the gentleman has expired.

MR. VINZONS. I move that he be given five minut es more to answer questions.

THE PRESIDENTE. Is there any objection ? (After a pause) The Chairs hears none. The gentleman can continue.

MR. GRAGEDA. Mr. President, will the gentleman yield ?

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman may yield, if he so desires.

MR. OSIAS. With pleasure.

MR. GRAGEDA. The distinguished gentleman from La Union.

MR. OSIAS. Omit "distinguished"

MR. GRAGEDA. It's all right. The gentleman has stated that if we do not grant suffrage to women, we may better just define democracy as a government of one-half ot the people, by the people and for the people.

MR. OSKAS. I say it would be nearer the facts.

MR. GRAGEDA. But it is not a fact that when Lincoln said that phrase "of the epople, by the people and for the people," there was no woman suffrage yet in the United States, there was no women suffrage yet in the United States , to show that woman suffrage is not necessary?

MR. OSIAS. Yes, and far-seeing man that he was, he know that it was coming.

MR. GRAGEDA. But anyway, he did not provide for that definituon.

MR. OSIAS. That is al right. He was looking forward to the ideal condition.

MR. ESCAREAL. Mr. President, willthe gentleman yield?

THE PRESIDENT. The gentleman may yield, if he so desires.

MR. OSIAS. Willinglu.

MR. ESCAREAL. The gentleman referred to a debt od h nor which he contracted while resident commissioner in the United States.

MR. OSIAS. Which I rmoraly contracted.

MR. ESCAREAL. Did the gentleman compromise himself, at leat the women

self, at least the women of the Philippines, or the constitutional convention.

MR. OSIAS. I compromised nobody.

MR. ESCAREAL... To give the womenthe right to vote, during the campign for independence?

MR. OSIAS. I promosed nobody. In fact, I asked them to get behind the independence movement.

MR. ESCAREAL. And the point of view of the gentlemen is that...

MR. OSIAS. That woman suffrage should come by grant and decision of the people themselves, instead of the epeopes of the United States.

MR. ESCAREAL. I have not finished my question yet. The point of view of the gentleman is that he having promised the women of the United States that our women will be given the right to vote--at least that you will help in obtaining for them the right to vote...

MR. OSIAS. All I promised is that I would, upon my return to my country, work for the agrant of that right of suffrage to women, and I am going that now.

MR. ESCAREAL. And would not he ask us to follow?

MR. OSIAS. I have not promised anybody.

MR. ESCAREAL. But you are trying to convince us ro follow your steps.

MR. OSIAS. Just as you are trying to convince me your way.

MR. ESCAREAL. I am asking you an information.

MR. OSIAS. If the gentleman would do me the honor of being converted, I would thank him the rest of mylife.

MR. ESCAREAL. Just for the information of the rest of the body, and myself also, because you said that what one says in the heat of the campaign may be subject

to revision in hiscalmer moments--did the gentleman say that inthe hast of that gig.ntic camapign for independence in the United States, which may be subject to revision in the clamer moment of this deliberative assemblu?

MR. OSIAS. The gentleman has seen that I said it is the heat of the moment, in the aftermath of that campaign, and in the serenity of this body.

MR. ESCAREAL. Just one more question. The gentleman mentons that he hopes that the entrance of women in public affairs through the right of suffrage will ameliberate, or at least wipe out that saturnalia of extravagance now run in our government. I do not know if I understood the gentleman right, that he hopes that ther willbe economy in managing the government, that there will be no more extravagance.

mr. OSIAS. I think so. Don't you?

MR. ESCAREAL. I do not know. I want to ask you this question.In the United States where the women have exercised the right to vote, will the gentleman the gentleman inform this constitutional convention if they have been able to effect any economy at all in running the United States Government?

MR. OSIAS. Well, that is a hard question to answer because we do not have the figures. Your case is just as good as mine.

MR. ABORDO. Mr. President, will the gentleman yield?

THE PRESIDENT. THE gentleman may yield, if he so desires.

MR. OSIAS. Yes, gentleman from Palawan, always simpatico.

MR. ABORDO. Should the women be deprived of the right to vote now, for example, in the very constitution that we shall draft, do we understand

that we shakl draft, do we understand from the gentleman from La Union that they are forever barred along this line?

MR. OSIAS. Forever, as far as human eye can see, and I cannot project my vision far enough so as to change the constitution we have to make. Now, is not the gentleman behind me in advocating a constitution that would insure the belssings of democracy to ourselves and posterity?

[redacted]

MR. ABORDO. Is the gentleman not aware of the fact that in any constitution there exists always an amendatory provision.?

MR. OSIAS. I think the gentleman and I know that.

MR. ABORDO. And that if it's the general sentiment of the women populace of the country that woman suffrage should be given them, cannot the officers conserned amend or provide a mandatory provision in the very constitution that we shall draft?

MR. OSIAS. Not if the men of the future will be as selfish as the men who will vote for the selfish measure now to deny the women the right of suffrage.

MR. GRAFILO. Mr. President, I move that that word referring to "selfishness" be stricken from the records.

MR. OSIAS. The gentleman is speakinf from the heat of the moment.

MR. GRAFILO. I withdraw my motion.

MR. ABORDO. Referring to the quotation last night which your honor heard abour irregularities, do you mean to say that the irregularities alleged were not true?

MR. OSIAS. I do not know whether that are true or they are not true; but I said I am reliably informed that the person quoted is in favor of woman suffrage. And even granting that those alleged irregularities are true, that would show that they are equal to the situation regarding any matter.

MR. ABORDO. But notwithstanding the irregularities committed during the election of that club referred to last night, does the gentleman from La Union stil insist that our women should go into the muddy and troublesome aspect of politics?

MR. OSIAS. Yes, just as I would not deny the men the right to vote and be voted upon merely because they have been already plunged into the mud.

MR. ABORDO. Is it not a fact that it is a traditional concept of the Filipinos alone to place the women above and revered?

MR. OSIAS. Precisely, because they are placed on a high pedestal, I entertain the fond hope that by tradition they will raise the level of politics from the mire into which they have fallen.

SR. MANSUETO. Si nosotros permitimos el sufragio a la mujer, que cualidades cree S. S. debemos exigir para que las mujeres puedan votar y ser votadas?

MR. OSIAS. Just to anser you so that my statement may be uniform. I would prefer that they be of age and preferrably that they possess the educational qualifications mainly, that is to say, that they be able to read and write either English, Spanish or a native dialect.

SR. MANSUETO. Cree S. S. que el actual sistema de permitir a los analfabetos quedaria mejorado si permitieramos a las mujeres a ejercer el derecho del voto?

SR. OSIAS. La rendencia seria minimizar el numero de esos analfabetos. He dicho que como el derecho del sufragio ha sido ya ejercido por esos analfabetos, no quisiera que el mismo sea suprimido.

SR. MANSUETO. Gracias.

MR. ARELLA. Mr. President, just one question to the gentleman. In other words, in conclusion the appro-

val of this resolution would be a tyrannical and unjust and undemocratic act on the part of the convention.

MR. OSIAS. May I ask unanimous consent for half a minute?

MR. ABELLA. Mr. President, I give the gentleman two more minutes?

THE PRESIDENT. The gentleman may proceed.

MR. OSIAS. I would like to ask unanimous consent to file in the records certain resolutions that have come to my hand presently and I am not acquainted with the signers of these resolutions.

MR. CONFESOR. Mr. President, because the gentleman wants unanimous consent, I would like to be informed x x x x

MR. OSIAS. They are resolutions addressed to the dele gates of the convention in favor ct woman suffrage.

MR. CONFESOR. When, last Friday?

MR. OSIAS. August thirthieth. Is the gentleman satisfied?

EL PRESIDENTE. El tiempo del orador ha expirado

MR. GRAFILO. Mr. President, will t ose records be inserted in connection with the beautiful speech delivered by the distingusihed gentleman from La Union o or separately?

MR. OSIAS. I care not how they may be filed. I am just submitting them in the record for anybody to consult.

EL PRESIDENTE INTERINO (Sr. Kapunan). May alguna objecion. (Silencio). La Mesa no oye ninguna. Is'ertese.

SRL ALTAVAS. Sr. Presidente, pido que sea reconocido el Delegado Sr. Alvero.

EL PRESIDENTE INTERINO. (Sr. Kpaunan). Tiene la palabra el Delegado Sr. Abelre.

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DISCURSO EN CONTRA EL SUFRAGIO FEMENINO PRONUNCIADO POR EL DELEGADO ALBERO DE ROMBLON ANTE LA CONVENCION CONSTITUTIONAL

SR. ALBERO. Sr. President, y miembros de la convencion: Al hablar hoy en contra del sufragio femenino no me conmuevo motivos de desprecio contra la capacidad, los dotes intelectuales y soicales de la mujer filipina sino el contrario, soy el primero en reconocer y ensalzar dichas buenas cualidades pues, debdido por su preparacion academica, ella esta demostrando hanilidad ejecutiva no solamente dentro del hogar sino tambien en el terreno de las cienciasas y las artes y contrubuye su grano de arena en todo qeullo que signifique progreso moral y material de la nacion.

La mujer comprende su responsabilidad dentro de la cociedad civil al igual que los hombres; pero teniendo en cuenta la circunstancia de su sexo, debemos elejarla del terreno veleidoso de la politifa para que su buen nombre dentro de la comunidad no sea mancillada. Ademas, esta visto que la politica es un instrumento que facilmente enciega las pasiones humanans sobre todo en los mamentos mas algidos de la lucha, en que los trapos mas sucios de la vida privada del individuo, verdad a mentira, sales a la luz y llegan con facilidad a oidos del publico.Si, vamos a conceder a la mujer el derecho de sufragio y permitemos a que entre en las contiendas pàliticas, Sr. President y caballeros de esta convnecion, estoy muy seguro de que en dia no lejano, ella perdera el respeto, aprecio y consideracion que hoy disfruta dentro de la sociedad familiar. Nosotros que hemos permanecido bastante tiempo en la vida politica, hemos visto con nuestros propios ojos, los miles

de sinsabores y desencantos que traen consigo las maldades de la politica; antes de que demos un paso hacia adelante sobre este asunto, debemos ponsar detenidamente y estudiar a fondo la cuestiony despojar de apasionamiento por uno y otro lado, y solamente teniendo por pauta el bienestar de la mujer y de la familia filipina

Cual es el verdadero propósito de nuestras mujeres al querer intervenir o compartir con los hombres en el cumplimiento de sus deberes de ciudadania ? Estan acaso dudosas de la habilidad de los hombres para manejar y administrar los mejores intereses del pais? No estan contentes todavia de su intervencion actual, cuando ellas de acuerdo con su habilidad y preparacion academica, ya ocupan cargos de nombramiento dentro del gobierno filipino?

Sri presidente y miembros de la convencion , debemos tambien tener en cuenta, otra circunstancia de que la mujer filipina, ella por naturaleza es sensible y de facil agitacion y de enfada con prontitud aun en las cosas mas nimias de la vida; y, si, a el lado de conceder a la mujer el derecho de sufragio para que pudiese intervenir en los asuntos politicos, no estaria lejos de que contemplaremos en nuestas calles publicas, riñas de comadres, como se dice en terminos vulgar.

En las luchas politicas siempre surgen cuestiones muy agitadas y denegradables y muchas veces acarrean disgustos no solamente de familia sino tambien de amigos; y, en el calor de dichas campañas los defectos secretos del hombre salen fuera y se asoman en las puertas de la opinion publica.

Una vez concedida a las mujeres el derecho de sufragio, ellas estarian en condiciones de podr seleccionar sus propios candidatos; y, supongase el caso de que entre

marido y mujer, tuviesen diferentes candidato a uno de la otra; y, sobre todo cuando ambos son de direrentes partidos politicos, como se arregalrian estos maridablos dentro del seno de la familia? Y, si son intransigentes todavia, empezaran por discutir las cuestiones politicas y cualidades personales de dado candidato dentro de casa hasta terminar con disgusto entre los dos; y, cual es el resultado de esto, no seria la destruccion de la tranquilidad de la familia?

Sabemos tambien que la mision de la mujer despues del matrimonia es administrar dentro de la casa los intereses de la familia y el cuidado de los hijos. Como de quedarian estos pequeñuelos si tanto el padre como la madre, salen a la vez de sus casas para hacer campaña electoral a favor de sus candidatos? Esto, no seria tambien un abandono de los intereses de laf amilia a parte de que privarian a los hijos del derechos de ciudado durante su infancia? Diranmenos los furibundos sufragistas que podriam pagar el servicio de nurse? Y, cuantos de la familia filipina, podran pagar el sueldo de nurse ?

En nuestras comunidades rurales mi uno por ciento apenas podemos encontar que reuna condiciones para afrontar esta clase de atenciones.

Un autor filipino sobre ciencias politicas, al hablar de las objeciones en cuanto a la concesion del derecho de sufragio a la mujer, dijo, los siguientes; 1.o--la intervencion de la mujer en el sufragio destruiria su naturaleza sus encantos, sus cualidades caracteristicas; la mujer tiene una mision distinta, que es la maternidad; sus ocupaciones y su influencia estan confinados en el hogar, el cual quedara disuelto sin la presedencia de la mujer; 2.o-si la mujer vota sin seguir la voluntad del padre, del marido o de los compañeros de casa, introduciria una disen-

sion en el seno del hogar muy perjudidial para la unidad de la familia y haste para la educacion de los hijos; 2.o-si, pr el contrario, la mujer hiciera lo que debe hacer y hace, por lo general, siguendo la voluntad del padre, del marido, entonces equivaldira a dar al homnbre un doble voto, y no se habra aganado nada concediendo el sufragio femnino; 4.o-la mujer esta fisicamente imposibilitada de cumplir con los deberes de la ciudadania; X X X X X X X X X X X X ; Y, 5.o-No todas la mujeres piden el sufragio, muchas de ellas hasta esten ppuestas a el; en cada puebli, aun de los civilizados, muy contadas son las que agitan ewta cuestion, el dia en que la peticion sea general, habra ppportunidad de distutir debidamente esta cuestion.

Sr. Presidente y Miemvros de la convencion; la entrad de la mujer filipina en la arena politica de nuestro pais significaria duplicidad de gastos de nuestros fnodos publicos. Actualmente, tenemos en toda filipinas unos 1,503,113, electores registrados y el govierno esta gastando cada tres años la suma de ₱1,4 00,000.00. De esta cantidad el gobierno insular asigna en su presupuesto la suman de ₱420,000.00; los gobiernos provincia es otra igual cantidad que gastar el gobierno insular o sea ₱42 0, 000. 0 0 y los municipios contribuyen con mayor cantidad que las dos entidades del gobierno o sea la de ₱5₱0,000.00. Si se concede el derecho de sufragio a las mujere, estos 1,503,113 de electores registrados como ya hemos dicho, se duplicaria en numero y los gastos tambien tendria que duplicar porque tenemos que aumentar el numero de personal y otros gastos imprescindibles de la eleccion. La cual seria perjudicial para los intereses de nuestra economia nacional sobre todo en epoca de crisis como hoy dia en que atraviesa el pais y que los contribuyentes ya no pueden sobrellevar de tantos y grandes impuestos.

En vista de las razones por mi expuestas, Sr. Presidente, abogo por la aprobacion de la resolucion.

He dicho.

LEVANTAMIENTO DE LA SESION

EL SR. ALTAVAS. Señor Presidente.

SR. PRESIDENTE. Señor Delegado.

SR. ALTAVAS. Pido que se levante la sesion hasta el lunes a las cuatro.

EL PRESIDENTE. Hay alguna objecion a la mocion ? (Silencio.) La Mesa no oye ninguna. Queda aprobada.

Se levanta la sesion.

Eran las 11:45 a. m.

De conformidad cond acordado en la sesion del sabado, 27 de octobre de 1934, dse insertan las siguientes resoluciones;

Lingayen Pangasinan, P. I.
Agust 3 Orh, 1934.

To the delegates of the
Constitutional convention
of the Philippines.

Dear Sirs;

Whereas we the mothers in Lingayen, Pangasinan are most interested in the future wifare of our country;

Whereas we believe that the Womanhood of the Philippines has adequately developed educationally, religiously and profesionally so as to qualify them to wisely participate in the Problems and interst of their country;

Whereas the Womanhood of the Philippines feel it their privilege and duty to lay down at the Altar of their Country, their unqualified supppprt, devotion and loyalty in the emancipationof their country(s welfare;

Whereas the Ninth Legislature of 1933, has granted Woman(s suffrage, so as to give women equal right with men;

Whereas the exclussion of the women 's rights in the Constitution is a grievous and unjust act to the Womanhood of the country who have been thru their rightful heritage the most privileged women of the Oriental;

Whereas the exclusion of the Women 's rights would be an open testimony to the Nations of the World of the lack of love, respect and fair-dealing of the man of the Philippines wit their mothers, wives and Daughters;

Whereas we the women of this country expect to remain an Organic body in the survival of the nation for the pre-

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sent and thru out the years to come, and

Whereas the Delegates of the Convention have been chosen and elected to represent the true sentiment of their people and to make the constitution which will affect the welfare of both men and women of the Country, therefore

Be it resolved that we register our most justified protest against the unjust effort of excluding the Woman's rights in the future constitution of our country, and let our resolution be forwarded to the convention thru the kindness of Mrs. Pilar Hidalgo Lim.

Yours for success of the Woman 's suffrage.

Victoriana Quinto--Manaag, Pangasinan,
Eusebia S. paco--Manaag, Pangasinan.
Modesta C. De Mamaril-Lingayen, Pangasinan.
Gregoria C. Ballen-Alaminos, Pangasinan.
Maria C. Orlino--Bani, Pangasinan.
Cristina de Frianeza-Mangalden, Pangasinan.
Isagle De cCabrera-Lingayen Pangasinan.
Rosario V. Quintos-Lingayen, Pangasinan.
Fortunata Quintos-- Lingayen, Pangasinan,
Presentacion A. Quintos-- Lingayen, Pangasinan
Nenita S. Santos--Lingayen, Pangasinan.
Benedicta V. Ferrer--Pozorrubio, Pangasinan.
Alejandra Rosario--Baay, Lingayen, Pangasinan.
Maria de Roque--Baay, Lingayen, Pangasinan.
Edobijes de Santos--Baay, Lingayen, Pangasinan.
Fernanda C. Ulanday--Baay, Lingayen, Pangasinan.
Faustina Arias--Baay, Lingayen, Pangasinan.
Placida B. Adam--Baay, Lingayen, Pangasinan
Brigida Loriano--Baay, Lingayen, Pangasi nan.

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Lingayen, Pangasinan, P. I.
August 3 0th, 1934

To the Delegate of the
Constitututional Convention
of the Philippines.

Dear Sirs:

Whereas we the women of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Lingayen, Pangasinan representing different localities are greatly interested in the future welfare of our country.

Whereas we believe that the Womanhood of the Philippines has adequately developed educationally, religiously and professionally so as to qualify them to wisely participate in the Problemsand interests of their country

Whereas we believe that of womanhood is demanded the loving sacrifice of bringing up men and women for the future; and we are most interested in the future destiny of their sons and daughters;

Whereas the Womahood of the Philippines feel it their privilege and duty to lay down at the altar of their country, their unqualified support, devotion and loyalty in the emancipation of their country s welfare.

Whereas the Ninth Legislature of 1933, has granted woman's suffrage, so as to give women equal right with Men;

Whereas the exclusion of the woman's rights in the Constitution is a grievous and unjust acts the Womanhood of the country who have been thrus their rightful heritage the most privileged women of the Orient;

Whereas the exclusion of the Women s rights would be an open testimony to the Nations of the other Nations of th world of the lack of love, respect and fair dealing of the m men of the Philippines, with their Mothers, wives and Daughters;

Whereas that we the women of this country expect to remain an Organic body in the survival of the Nation for the present and thru out the years to come, and

Whereas the Delegation of the Convention have been chosen and elected to represent the true sentiment of their people and to make the constitution which will affect the welfare of both men and women of the country, therefore

Be it resolved that we register our most justified protest against theunjust effort of excluding the woman's rights in the future constitution of our Country, and let our resolution be forwarded to the Convention thru the kindness of Mrs. Pilar Hidalgo Lim.

Yours for the success of the
Womans suffrage,

Dolores Tano-Laoag, Manaoag, Pangasinan.
Eulalia Zabala-Calmay, Dagupan, Pangasinan
Ana Lamagna -San Nicolas, Pangasinan.
Silvina Paco-Laoag, Manaoag, Pangasinan.
Eufemiana Fajila-Laoag, Manaoag, Pangasinan.
Mercedes Villar- San quenitn, Pangasinan,
Ruth Olmos--Narvacan, Ilocos Sur,
Juana Belisario-Umingan, Pangasinan.
Benigana Hidalgo--La trinidad, Benquet,
Enriqueta Belisario-Umingan, Pangasinan,
Rode Navarro--Santa Maria, Pangasinan,
Trinaidad Villar-San Quintin, Pangasinan.
Avelina Garibay--San Manuel, Pangasinan.
Resurreccion Perez-Pozorrubio-Pangasinan.
Civinca Beltran--Calsiao, Pangasinan.
Pastora Pascua-Asingan, Pangasinan.
Angeles Cruz--Binamaley, Pangasinan,
Eufemia Beltran--Calasiao,Pangasinan.
Maria Paco, Laoag, Manaoag, Pangasinan.
Remidios Espinosa,-Calasiao, Pangasinan.
Flora Hidalgo--Trinidad, Benquet.
Librada F. Baltazar--Jacob Street, Lingayen, Pangasinan.
Teresa C. Munar--El Legionarios St. Lingayen, Pangasinan.
Esperanciana C. Malanum--Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Florentina R. Coquia--Lingayen, Pangasinan.
Maria S. Borreso--Lingayen, Pangasinan.
Gliceria Macaltao--Lingayen, Pangasinan.
Encarnacion R. Manuel--Lingayen, Pangasinan,
Josefa Gavino-Tarlac, Tarlac,
Maria B. Adan--Lingayen, Pangasinan
Apolonia O. Cacho--Lingayen, pangasinan

Ceferina Lagira--Lingayen, Pangasinan
Conchita Lincod--Lingayen, Pangasinan
Antonia Questino--Lingayen, Pnagaisnan.
Inocencia de Garcia-Lingayen, Pnagasinan,
Paulina Gallardo--Lingayen, Pnagasinan.

Lingayen, Pangasinan, P.I.
August 3 0th, 1934.

To the Delegates of the
Constitutional Convention.
of the Philippines

Dear Sirs:

Whereas we the Teachers and Students of the Mary Brown Townsadn memorial Bible Woman's Training School in Lingayen, Pangasina, representing the Central and Northern Provinces of Luzon, are greatly interested in the future of our country;

Whereas we believe that the womanhood of the Philippines has adequately developed educationally, religiously and professionally so as to qualify them to wisely participate in the problems and interest of their country;

Whereas we believe that of Womanhood in demanded the loving sacrifice of bringing up men and woman for the future, and are most interest d in the future destiny of their sons and daughters;

Whereas the Womanhood of the Philippines feel it their privilege and duty to lay down at the later of their country, their unqualified support, devotion and loyalty in the emancipation of their country 's welfare;

Whereas the Ninth Legislature of 1933, has granted Woman's suffrage, soas to give women equal right with men;

Whereas the exclusion of the Women 's rights in the Constitution is a grievous and unjust act to the womanhood of the country who have been thru their rightful heritage the most privileged owmen of the Orient.

Whereas the exclusion of thewmen's rights would be an open testimony to the Nations of the world of the lack of love, respect and fair-dealing of the Men of the Philippines with their Mothers, wives and ddughters;

Whereas we the Women of this country expect to remain an organic body in the survival of the nation for the present and truout the years to come, and

Whereas the delegates of the Convention have been chosen and elected to represent the tru sentiment of their people and to make theconstitution which will affect the welfare of both men and woman of the country, therefore.

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Bet it resolved that we register our most justified protest against the unjust effort of excluding the Woman's rights in the fute constitution of our country, and let our resolution be forwarded to the Convention thru the Kindness Mrs. Filar Hidalgo Lim

Yours for the success of the woman's Suffrage

Silveria N. Lucas-Victoria, Tarlac
Esperanza C. Bumanlag-Vugan, Ilocos Sur.
Januaria S. Casipit-Alaminous, Pangasinan,
Soleman E. Moralin-Rupao, Nueva Ecija
Margarita paco-Pacac, Manaoag, Pangasinan
Patrocinio S. Ocampo-Lingayen, Pangasinan
Josefina S. Bertin-Paniqui, Tarlac.
Antonina T. vela-Victoria, Tarlac.
Eloisa Castil-Anda, Pangasinan.
Maria Mariano--Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
Epifania aquino-Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Adelina G. Simando-Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya
Dionista E. Adralin-Rupao, Nueva Ecija
Rhoda Calicdan-Anda, Pangasinan
Maritta Adnocara-Moncada, Tarlac.
Mariano B. Mansanilla-La Paz, Abra.
Cornelia C. Bila-Alcala, Pangasinan,
Margarita C. Bascos-Villasis, Pangasinan
Ruth A. Siazon-Alcala, Cagayan
Pacita Costes-San Manuel, Pangasinan
Maria Wenceslao-Baler, Tayabas,
Felisa Abadu-Dodan, Piñablanca, Cagayan,
Maxima M. Bernilla-Alcala, Cagayan
Crescencians R. Sibul-Callao Piñabalnca, Cagayan
Josefina B. Braga-Gurgos, Pangasinan, P. I.
Marcelina Balanian -Galimoyod, Ilocos Sur
Eugenia Ramirez-Carmen, Zaragosa, Nueva Ecija
Emiliana Pagarigan-Pamplona, Cagayan
Saturnina Lecitona-Rosales, Pangasinan
Caridad B. Ramos--Gerona, Tarlac
Maria Cachera-Agno, Pangasinan.
Rebecca A. Abenoja-Muños, Nueva Ecija
Ester Vicadme--Villasis Pangasinan
Segunda G. Lapurga-Guimba, Nueva Ecija
Trinidad R. Ignacio-Bani, Pangasinan
Rose D. Lagera-San Nicloas, Pangasinan,
Severina O. Murallos-Umigan, Pangasinan,
Visitacion Deculing-Mallatatan Cama Isabela
Gervacia G. Crispino-Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija
Maria C. Loduico-Tuao, Bagabag , Nueva Vizcaya
Rutida C. Dollaga-Bani, Pangasiana
Adrina Gabriel-Calao, Santiago Isabela
Esberta Ranno-Magtablaan, Sta. Lucia
Harmonia C. Caras-Anda Pangasinan
Conrada Raza-Afusing, Alcala, Cagayan
Conriana Pelayan-Rizal Nueva Ecija
Leona R. Cruz-Muñoz, Nueva Ecija
Agripina B. Marquez-San Roque, San Manuel.
Pangasinan.
Rufina C. Sumaglit-San Manuel, Pangasinan
Marcela O Bucasas-San Roque, Lupao
Calixta T. Catabay-Bani Pangasianan
Jacobina M. Hernandez-Baler, Tayabas
Juanaria Coniaga. Asingan, Pangasinan
Angelina Salvatierra--San Leonidas, Nueva Ecija.